

and he died just as the young birds were chipping out of the shell. The female then became restless, left the eggs, and was only induced to resume her place for the few hours which were necessary to complete the hatch by the keeper having arranged the dead body of her mate in counterfeit presentment of the position he generally took up near her when not himself upon the eggs."—*Extract from 'Garden Guide,' 1852*

It will, I hope, be understood that the birds so hatched in 1850 were the parents of the individual whose habits I now wish to record.

This bird was one of two hatched about the latter end of May 1857, and was reared by its parents in the gardens, where it remained during the summer and autumn of that year. At the commencement of the winter he was in the habit of flying about (not having been pinioned), and occasionally staying away a *day* or *two*, then *for a week or more*, returning again generally about feeding-time, and alighting among the other gulls and feeding with them. This continued till the end of March 1858, at which time he disappeared. Nothing more was seen or heard of him until the middle of November 1858, when, to the delight and astonishment of all who knew him, he returned one afternoon at the usual time. *Meeting the keeper with the box of food, he followed him* to the enclosure where he was hatched, and settling down among the other gulls, took his dinner as though he had never been away, not appearing the *least shy or wild*. Here he remained with his parents and the other gulls, occasionally flying off for a *day* or *two*, until the beginning of February 1859.

He again departed and by many was given up for lost; others, however, thought he might again return. And on the morning of *Saturday last, between eight and nine o'clock*, we were gratified to behold the long-lost Gull making his way to his old quarters much improved in his appearance, having nearly completed his adult plumage. He immediately came down and was greeted by his old friends, who evidently recognized him. He *appeared fatigued and hungry*: I sent for some food, and he came boldly towards us, and fed almost from the hand. As soon as his appetite was satisfied, he walked about, quite at home among the other gulls. Since Saturday I have seen him flying now and then over the Gardens and Park, but returning after a short flight.

In conclusion, I beg to say I am indebted to one of the Society's most careful and very intelligent keepers (B. Misselbrook) for some of the facts which have enabled me to bring before you these very interesting particulars.

#### 6. ON THE MOST EFFICIENT MEANS OF PRESERVING THE EGGS OF BIRDS IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE AFTERWARDS HATCHED. BY A. D. BARTLETT.

I believe there are but few persons who are quite satisfied by seeing and examining the dried skins and feathers of birds.

The great desire, therefore, to see, or to possess, in a living state,

these wonderful and generally beautiful creatures, has led me to consider the possibility of preserving their eggs for a sufficiently long period to allow of their being brought from distant places and afterwards hatched. We might thus be able to obtain some of the more delicate species, and many perhaps that a long sea voyage would prevent our obtaining by any other means.

The mere keeping fresh and sweet the eggs of birds has been accomplished in many ways: for instance, they will keep for a long period imbedded in lime and water, or in fat or salt; but by these means the vitality is destroyed. It appears to me, therefore, to be essentially necessary, not only to prevent evaporation, but also to keep the texture and surface of the shell in its pure and perfect condition. To accomplish this object the eggs must be newly laid, or nearly so, and the following is the best method of preserving them.

Obtain the gut of any animal whose intestine is large enough to admit the egg intended to be preserved, and, having carefully cleaned the gut and rendered it free from fat, dry it as much as possible in powdered chalk or other earthy matter. Pass the egg into the gut, tying it close to the shell at both ends of the egg, and hang it up in a *cool, dry place* until it is quite dry. Two, three, or more eggs can be tied in the same gut like a string of beads, or they can be tied separately. When thoroughly dry, they may be packed up in a box with oats, wheat, or any *other dry grain or seeds*, until the box is quite full. The object in having the box full is for the great convenience of turning the eggs. This is accomplished by turning the box bottom upwards, which should be done occasionally. Thus the whole of the eggs may be effectually turned with very little trouble. The eggs thus packed must be kept in a dry, cool place, and ought not to be taken out or unpacked before the means are at hand for hatching them. Upon wishing to place them under a hen, or otherwise, if the dry gut be cut with a sharp knife, it will peel off without in any way injuring the shell of the egg.

I was successful in hatching and rearing the young from some eggs kept three months in this manner, and I have no doubt that under favourable circumstances they may be kept for a longer period.

7. ON THE REPTILES AND FISHES COLLECTED BY THE REV. H. B. TRISTRAM IN NORTHERN AFRICA. BY DR. A. GÜNTHER, FOR. MEMB. ZOOL. SOC.

(Pisces, Pl. IX.)

A small collection of Reptiles and Fishes, made by the Rev. H. B. Tristram in the Desert, southwards of Algeria and Tunis, and kindly forwarded by him for my examination, has served to give valuable information on the southward extent of several known species, and proves to contain two others new to science. The collection is composed of twelve Reptiles and two Fishes, most of the species being represented by several specimens.